

SECTION A: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-20 herein without prejudice. The following is a complete listing of all the claims.

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A coupler in the form of a housing having opposite end faces, the coupler for joining two conduits together, wherein the coupler comprises:

an annular hole extending along an axis between said opposite end faces of the housing, the annular hole comprising a first inner diameter, lugs having a second inner diameter, and a flange having a third inner diameter, wherein the first diameter is greater than the second diameter, and the second diameter is greater than the third diameter;

the housing comprising a plurality of sectors that snap together;

wherein the plurality of sectors each have a rib; and

wherein each said rib lockingly engages a respective channel to prevent relative movement of the sectors in a plurality of radial directions.

22. (New) The coupler of claim 21, wherein the sectors are sufficiently resilient to enable snap lock action in a relative radially inward direction between said plurality of sectors.

23. (New) The coupler of claim 21, wherein at least one stopping flange is located at an end face of each of the sectors and engages an end face of another of the

sectors and prevents relative axial movement between the sectors in a first and a second axial directions.

24. (New) The coupler of claim 21, wherein each sector has an additional said stopping flange preventing relative movement between the sectors.

25. (New) The coupler of claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of sectors is identical to each other in size and shape.

26. (New) The coupler of claim 21, further comprising a locking flange configured to engage a protrusion on one of the two conduits.

27. (New) The coupler of claim 21, wherein the coupler is secured to at least one of the two conduits by a bayonet twist and lock action.

28. (New) A coupler in the form of a nut having an annular hole extending between end faces and centered on an axis, the coupler being adapted for coupling two conduits together by a bayonet twist and lock action, comprising:

two sectors of the nut defining the annular hole and for surrounding ends of the two conduits by respective axial ends adjacent end faces of the nut;

the sectors being sufficiently resilient to snap lock together;

wherein the sectors snap lock together by relative radially inward movement; and

further comprising at least one axially elongated rib forming a radially outwardly facing groove and a another axially elongated rib forming a radially inwardly facing

groove on each of the two sectors, wherein the ribs resiliently slide over each other into a seated position during a snap locking action of the two sectors.

29. (New) The coupler of claim 28, wherein each of said plurality of sectors is identical to each other in size and shape.

30. (New) The coupler of claim 28, further comprising a locking flange configured to engage a protrusion on one of the two conduits.

31. (New) The coupler of claim 28, further comprising a stopping flange connected to the another axially elongated rib forming a radially inwardly facing groove at an end thereof, to prevent relative axial movement between the two sectors.

32. (New) The coupler of claim 28, further comprising a lug connected to one of the two sectors, configured to engage one of the ends of the two conduits.